

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An absorbing rod configured to be insertable ~~which is to be inserted~~ into one of a control rod guide pipe and a measuring pipe of spent ~~bent~~ fuel assemblies ~~or a measuring pipe~~, said absorbing rod comprising a solid structure comprising one of an aluminum composite material and an aluminum alloy formed by adding one of a powder of boron ~~or of~~ and a boron compound having a neutron absorbing performance, to a powder of aluminum or of an aluminum alloy having an average diameter of 50-120  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~said absorbing rod being insertable into one of said control rod guide pipe and said measuring pipe when transporting spent fuel assemblies stored in a casket.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The absorbing rod according to claim 13, wherein  
~~An absorbing rod as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said absorbing rod comprises one of an aluminum composite powder material and an aluminum alloy powder material formed by adding one of a boron powder and a boron powder compound having a neutron absorbing performance to said one of said aluminum composite powder and said aluminum alloy powder, said one of said aluminum composite powder and said aluminum alloy powder comprise particles having a diameter of 5-150  $\mu\text{m}$  and said one of said aluminum composite powder and said aluminum alloy powder comprises~~

said one of said aluminum composite material and said aluminum alloy comprises  
additional particles of a weight percentage in the range of 0.1-30, and is ~~has a weight~~  
~~percentage in the~~ range of 1-20, and

said one of said powder of boron and said boron compound has an average a particle  
diameter of 0.01-100  $\mu\text{m}$ .